936-91 Is Exercise Thallium-201 Imaging Helpful in Risk Stratifying Patients with Cardiac Transplant Coronary Artery Disease?

Roxanne A. Rodney, Ellen Moquete, Lynne L. Johnson, Mark L. Barr. *Columbia University, N.Y., N.Y.*

Prior studies have shown that patients with normal exercise SPECT thallium (Tl) scans have a favorable prognosis despite the angiographic presence of CAD. Patients with cardiac transplant (Tx) CAD have a high incidence of adverse events including silent MI and sudden death. However given the limited availability of donor hearts, and the lower survival after the second transplant, a technique to risk stratify patients with Tx CAD would be clinically useful and cost-effective. Thirteen patients (mean post-Tx time 40 mo) with angiographic CAD underwent exercise and 4 hr redistribution SPECT Tl imaging. Ten patients had epicardial (≥50% diameter reduction) and small vessel disease, two had isolated small vessel disease, and one had isolated epicardial disease. SPECT imaging revealed fixed or reversible defects in 10/13 (77%) patients, 3 patients had normal scans. There was no significant difference in mets achieved during exercise, nor in the extent of CAD between the groups. During a mean follow-up of 20 mo, 8/10 (80%) patients with positive Tl scans had graft failure or death vs 0/3 (0%) patients with negative Tl scans ($p < 0.05$, Kaplan-Meier survival analysis). This preliminary data suggest that SPECT Tl imaging may be of value in risk stratifying patients with Tx CAD.

937 New Approaches to Dobutamine Stress Echocardiography

Tuesday, March 21, 1995, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Hall E
Presentation Hour: 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

937-1 Color Doppler M-Mode Assessment of Flow Velocity Propagation During Early Filling; A Useful Adjunct to Wall Motion Analysis During Dobutamine Stress Echocardiography

Miguel Ares, Leonardo Rodriguez, Dominic Leung, Mario Garcia, Pieter Vandervoort, Thomas Marwick. *Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH*

Flow velocity propagation (FVP) during early left ventricular (LV) filling correlates with LV relaxation and has been shown to be a sensitive index of ischemia during angioplasty. To test the ability of color Doppler M-mode to detect ischemia during dobutamine (Db) stress echo we prospectively evaluated 26 pts (13 females, age 61 ± 13 y).

Methods: FVP was evaluated in digitally acquired recordings of color Doppler M-mode as the slope of the color/non-color (black to red) transition of transmitral flow during early filling, at rest and with each increment of Db. An abnormal FVP response was defined by reduction of the slope with increase of Db dose. Digitized echo images were compared at rest and during stress to identify the presence of new or worsening wall motion abnormalities (WMA). Nine pts (group A) were designated as having coronary disease on the basis of WMA, typical angina and ST depression, and abnormal coronary anatomy. Seventeen pts (group B) without WMA in the presence of normal coronary anatomy or low (<10%) pretest probability of disease were designated as having no coronary disease.

Results: All pts in group A developed an abnormal FVP response to Db stress (sensitivity 100%). In group B, 7 of 17 pts without coronary disease presented an abnormal response as evaluated by FVP (specificity 59%). Of the false positive group, 86% had echocardiographic evidence of left ventricular hypertrophy, with a strain pattern by EKG, compared with only 30% in the true negative group ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusions: i) Color Doppler M-mode is very sensitive to ischemia during dobutamine stress echo, ii) Other conditions as left ventricular hypertrophy with strain pattern can produce the same response, iii) Color Doppler M-mode evaluation of diastolic function may be a useful tool during dobutamine stress echo.

937-2 Safety and Efficacy of QW3600 (EchoGen®) in Producing LV Opacification During Stress Echocardiography in Normals

Bruno Cotter, Oi Ling Kwan, Philip Leese, Anthony N. DeMaria. *University of California at San Diego, CA*

QW 3600 (EchoGen®) (EG) is a new ultrasonic contrast agent which produces intense LV cavity and even myocardial opacification following IV injection in animals. However, no data exists regarding the potential of this agent to be used in conjunction with stress echo in humans. Therefore, in 17 normals we compared the results of injecting equal volumes of normal saline and progressive doses of EG: 0.02 cc/kg (5 pts), 0.05 cc/kg (4), and 0.1 cc/kg (8) during stress echo performed to 85% of maximal heart rate. Echo was performed in apical 4 chamber view, and LV contrast opacification was assessed qualitatively (1+ weak and incomplete, 2+ complete cavity, 3+ dense and complete) and by videodensitometry (0.3 cm^2) region of interest in mid cavity. All subjects tolerated the injections well without adverse events. No significant changes were observed in pulse oximetry, the ECG, or 25 laboratory studies. We analyzed the maximal change (Δ) in systolic (S) and diastolic (D) pressure (mmHg) and heart rate (HR) and peak videointensity (PVI) from baseline to post exertion *following* the injection of either saline or EG (Table, all p = NS for saline vs EG except PVI).

Dose	Saline				EG			
	ΔHR	ΔSBP	ΔDBP	PVI	ΔHR	ΔSBP	ΔDBP	PVI
0.02	48	43	18	13	42	49	17	28
0.05	37	35	16	11	43	43	21	42
0.1	37	40	19	10	37	44	19	62

LV opacification was absent with saline, was inconsistent at 0.02 and 0.05 cc/kg doses, but was ≥ 2+ in all but one 0.1 cc/kg administration (mean 2.4). Peak LV videointensity after EG was 62 for 0.1 cc/kg. Thus, EchoGen® is a new contrast agent which is well tolerated when used with stress echo in normals and results in complete LV opacification at a dose of 0.1 cc/kg. EchoGen® should prove to be a useful adjunct to clinical stress echo.

937-3 Sonicated Albumin in Exercise Echocardiography: Technique and Feasibility of a Novel Approach to Enhance Endocardial Border Visualization

Kenneth J. Yvorchuk, Randall A. Sochowski, Kwan L. Chan. *University of Ottawa Heart Institute, Ottawa, Canada*

Exercise echocardiography (EE), used to assess for myocardial ischemia, is limited mainly by suboptimal endocardial visualization in the immediate post-exercise (Post-Ex) images. Enhancement of LV cavity can be obtained following an intravenous injection of sonicated albumin (Albunex®), but its use in EE has not been reported. To determine the feasibility of Albunex® contrast EE and an optimum dosing technique, 15 healthy volunteers (5 men and 10 women, age 40 ± 7 years) underwent a routine EE and a contrast EE on the same day. Albunex® was injected intravenously and continuously until contrast first appeared in LV. Echo images from the apical four (A-4) and two (A-2) chamber views were obtained at rest and Post-Ex. There was no difference in the time to image acquisition between the two EE. Albunex® provided full LV opacification in 14 of 15 subjects both at rest and Post-ex. The overall percentage of endocardial visualization increased from 86% without to 91% with contrast enhancement ($p < 0.01$). Similar increases were seen in Post-Ex A-4 (86% vs 97%, $p < 0.01$) and Post-Ex A-2 (81% vs 88%, p = NS). Time to initial contrast in LV (transit time) and volume at rest and Post-Ex were compared:

Variable	Rest A-4	Post-Ex A-4	Rest A-2	Post-Ex A-2
Time (sec)	9.7	5.0	9.3	5.2
Volume (ml)	12.1	9.6	11.8	8.4

$p < 0.01$ between all rest and Post-Ex values

Transit time ($r = 0.72$) and volume required ($r = 0.57$) correlated with cardiac output but not with body size.

Conclusion: Our method of Albunex® EE proves to be feasible in normal subjects and results in full LV opacification with a high degree of endocardial visualization in most subjects. Both the volume of Albunex® and the transit time are reduced Post-Ex. Albunex® appears to have a useful role in EE.

937-4 Combined Use of Dobutamine Stress Echocardiography and Myocardial Contrast Echocardiography

Folkert J. TenCate, Aric A. Aiazian, Jaap Hamburger, Jan Hein Cornel, Dilla Ataoullakhanova, Paolo Fioretti. *Thoraxcenter, Erasmus University and University Hospital Rotterdam, The Netherlands*

Combined use of Dobutamine stress Echocardiography (DSE) and Myocardial contrast echocardiography (MCE) offers the unique possibility to study myocardial function and perfusion.

Aim of the study: To define the characteristics of collateralized myocardium (CM) in comparison to normally perfused myocardium (NM) using DSE and MCE.

Methods: In 14 patients (pts) (10 males, 4 females) with single vessel total occlusion of one major epicardial coronary artery and intercoronary collaterals (Rentrop3) DSE was performed together with MCE. Wall motion score index (WMSI) was calculated. Sonicated iopamidol was injected into the right and left coronary artery with simultaneous twodimensional Echo imaging of all standard apical views in every patient. Videodensitometry of contrast en-